

about the incentive it created for Mohegans to maintain their cultural identity: "Because Indians are making money, now it's a privilege to be one."

The casino offered the means; but the end was always clear, and it was the end to which Ralph dedicated decades of his life: bringing back a people that had seemed on the verge of fading away. Ralph dealt cannily with Wall Street investors—but took more pleasure in spending afternoons raking the leaves from his tribe's ancient burial ground.

He was a proud product of two cultures, Indian and Western, comfortable in either, taking the best from both. "What probably happened is my father's people were rowing ashore on the Mayflower and my mother's people were probably on the shore throwing stones," Ralph once joked.

He will be remembered as an artist, a businessman, and a wise chief, presiding over his tribe with a feathered talking-stick in one hand and a gavel in the other. The cultures he represented in either hand—and our whole State of Connecticut—are united in honoring Chief Ralph Sturges.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LAS CRUCES

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 100th birthday of Las Cruces, NM. Being the second largest city in New Mexico, Las Cruces has a lot to be proud of and a lot to celebrate.

Before New Mexico became a State, Las Cruces was making its mark on the world. When it was founded in 1907 as a small railroad town, no one could have foreseen what a major metropolitan area it would become in the southern part of my State. Being sheltered by the Organ Mountains to the east, and the Rio Grande River on the west, Las Cruces boasts 350 days of sunshine a year making it one of AARP's Top 5 Places To Retire. The city also has continued to receive the title of Best Small Metro Area for Business Careers from the Forbes/Milken Institute.

Las Cruces, English translation is "the crosses," is home to the second largest university in New Mexico, New Mexico State University, with a student population of 26,000. NMSU continues to grow and improve upon the various programs and degrees they offer. This university is vital to the strength of Las Cruces. The Dona Ana Community College is located here as well. Their student population is over 4,000 strong. Las Cruces also hosts the nationally acclaimed annual Whole Enchilada Festival. The festival attracts over 40,000 visitors each year. Because of this annual event, Las Cruces holds the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's largest flat enchilada.

Las Cruces has seen a giant explosion in population over the last decade.

They have grown from just over 74,000 residents in 2000 to around 87,000 residents in 2006. And the boom in population shows no signs of stopping in the near future. Small and large industries continue to see this budding town as a great place to do business. While it is hard to point to just one industry that has caused the extreme growth, Las Cruces continues to do what it does best, be consistent in its offerings.

To celebrate their 100th birthday, Las Cruces has planned to serve a piece of cake to every resident. They might also make the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest sheet cake after the celebration! The city is planning on cutting this cake at the culmination of an all-day festival at the Downtown Mall. The festival will include live entertainment all day with various acts to include a mariachi band, craft fair, and theatre performances at the Rio Grande Theatre.

Las Cruces has so much to be proud of, and I congratulate them on their 100th birthday. May they celebrate many more. Que Viva Las Cruces muchos mas años!●

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND EDWIN "D" EDMONDS

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Rev. Edwin "Doc" Edmonds, a retired pastor and civil rights leader from New Haven who passed away Tuesday, November 6. Reverend Edmonds, or "Doc," as his friends called him, was one of the smartest, warmest, and most effective people I have ever had the pleasure to know, and led a truly inspirational life.

Born and raised in Texas, Edwin Edmonds was an excellent student, graduating high school at 15 years of age. In college he began losing his eyesight until he was legally blind. Despite having much difficulty reading and writing his assignments, he prevailed and graduated from Morehouse College in 1938, only 1 year later than expected. He would then go on to earn a bachelor's of sacred theology and a doctorate in social ethics from Boston University. In 1950, he was ordained in the Methodist Church.

While teaching Sociology at Bennett College in Greensboro, NC, Reverend Edmonds became deeply involved with the civil rights movement, where he was elected president of the Greensboro chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1958, he met the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and the two exchanged letters until Dr. King's tragic death.

He also was an adviser to the "Greensboro Four," a group of brave college students committed to racial equality who would later lead the famous sit-in at a segregated lunch counter at a Woolworth's department store. This courageous protest is widely believed to be the first sit-in of the civil rights movement. Many Greensboro historians consider Reverend Edmonds a pioneer in the fight for equal rights for the city's minorities.

In 1959, Reverend Edmonds moved to New Haven to become pastor of the Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church, which is now known as the United Church of Christ. As pastor, Mr. Edmonds soon became a fixture in the local community and quickly gained a reputation as one who was always willing to help those in need. His youngest daughter, Toni Walker, who serves as a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly, recalls that people in need often stayed at their home as guests. "As long as they needed help, they were able to get it," Walker remembers.

Reverend Edmonds' congregants all knew that he was around to address not just their spiritual needs, but also everyday needs such as housing and jobs. Under his leadership, the church built a housing development and a creative arts center for the community. In addition, he was involved with many community service groups, such as the Urban League, the New Haven Clergy Association, the Amistad Committee and the New Haven Inter-Faith Ministerial Alliance. He was also a longtime member of the New Haven Board of Education, serving as its chairman from 1979 to 1988.

Even after retiring from the church in 1994, Mr. Edmonds remained active in his community. In 2000, after a meeting with single mothers who had to defer going to school to raise their children, he helped to establish Edwin R. and Maye B. Edmonds Scholarship Fund for single parents.

I bid farewell to "Doc" Edmonds and will keep his friends and family in my thoughts and prayers. I take solace in knowing that he will live on in all the people he helped to inspire to serve their community. As Clifton Graves, an activist and professor in New Haven who has known and looked up to Reverend Edmonds since he was a boy, said of his death: "We mourn this loss, but we celebrate his life and the contributions he made not only to New Haven but to Connecticut and indeed, around the country."●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER BONIFACE HARDIN AND SISTER JANE SCHILLING

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to two Hoosiers who have touched the Indianapolis community and the world through their tireless leadership and commitment to the positive effect that education can have on both individuals and the communities in which they live. Over the years I have admired Father Boniface Hardin and Sister Jane Schilling for their dedication to both their religious calling as well as the more temporal needs of our communities as they worked to fight racial injustice and poverty through education and empowerment.

In 1977, Father Hardin and Sister Jane founded Martin University, an institution dedicated to serving low-income, minority, and adult learners,